India's share in the global exports of herbal medicines is low as till now the production of herbal medicine has been in unorganized sector with traditional methods.

(c) Following steps have been taken to increase production of herbal medicines:

(i) Mandatory testing of metals in all purely herbal ASU medicines for exports *w.e.f.* 01.01.2006 onwards.

(ii) Testing facilities for ASU durgs in the country have been strengthened by upgradation of State Drug Testing Laboratories and accredition of private drug testing laboratories.

(iii) State Drug Licensing Authorities have been directed to ensure full compliance by all ASU durg manufacturers of the provision of Rule 161(1) and (2) relating to displaying on the label of the container or in a leaflet to be inserted in the package of an ASU drugs, the true list of all ingredients used in the manufacture of the preparation together with the quantify of each of the ingredients incorporated there. The relaxation in labeling provision have been made for the export of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicines.

(iv) A research project has been sanctioned to various laboratories to Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the Golden Triangle physiochemical characteristics of 8 most widely used Bhasmas and to carry out their toxicity studies. Good manufacturing practices have been made mandatory for all Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drug manufacturing units in the country.

(v) Government of India has initiated awareness programmes for educating the industry through its Export Promotion Council, Pharmexcil. Besides, Government has introduced Testing facilities for ASU drugs in the country have been strengthened by upgradation of State Drug Testing Laboratories.

Sponsor of Journalists by MOD

†306. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether visits of journalists are sponsored by the Ministry of Defence; and

(b) if so, the number of journalist from print media as well as electronic media sent for these visits?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year 2006-2007, 304 Print and 197 Electronic Media journalists were taken by the Directorate of Public Relations, Ministry of Defence for coverage of various Defence events at home and abroad. During the current financial year, till date, the corresponding figures are 104 and 76 respectively.

Manufacture of Cabins of Stallion and LPTA Vehicles

307. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether one hydraulic press was commissioned in May, 2003 for in-house manufacture of cabins of Stallion and LPTA transport vehicles in Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur;

(b) if so, the cost of the same;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether the same was not used and requirement of cabin was met through outsourcing which cost more than Rs. 100 crore till March, 2005; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) A 1500 T General Purpose (GPM) Hydraulic Press was commissioned in May 2003 for manufacture of various part of LPTA and Stallion vehicle including cabin.

(b) The Total cost of the Press is Rs. 3.55 crore.

(c) and (d) Hydraulic Press in question is beign utilized to its full capacity for manufacture of the components of Stallion and LPTA vehicles. However, the press is not being used for manufacture of cabin. The plan for manufacture of Cabin assembly in-house at Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur could not be pursued since it involved creation of other supplementary facilities with an investment of more than Rs. 75 crore each for LPTA and Stallion vehicles. Therefore such investment for manufacture of cabins at the present volume of production of LPTA & Stallion vehicles was not economically viable. As such, requirement of cabins is being met through collaborators as that is more economical.

Review of Offset Clause in Defence Procurement Procedure 2006

308. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to review the Offset Clause under the Defence Procurement Procedure 2006:

(b) if so, the details of the reasons warranting such a review; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the vendors have expressed reservations to the Offset Clause?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The Offset Clause was incorporated in the Defence Procurement Procedure, 2006 promulgated with effect from 1.9.2006. The procedure is subject to modification on the basis of experience gained during the course of tits implementation. No changes have been made so far in the Offset provisions.

(c) Vendors have not expressed any reservation to the Offset Clause though they have given few suggestions.

DRDO suggestions to depression problems

†309. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Research Development Organisation has given any suggestions for resolving of the problems confronting the soldiers such as depression, difficult working conditions owing to the proxy war;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of units where these reforms have been implemented;

(d) whether the same would be implemented in other units after studying their results; and

(e) by when these reform would be implemented in all the units?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR), a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.